

city's south side. It wasn't until he watched the two high school teams battle it out on the court, though, that he realized medicine wasn't his real passion. It was basketball. Molitor transferred to Roosevelt University and shifted his focus to education.

After graduation, Molitor started as assistant coach of the DePaul Academy High School basketball team. As assistant coach, he worked under Coach Bill Gleason, who became both a mentor and friend. Molitor went on to coach basketball at Marist High School on the southwest side of Chicago.

In 1976, Molitor became head coach of Palatine High School's varsity basketball team. He stayed for more than three decades. During his 32 years at Palatine, Molitor coached more than 700 athletes. He left an indelible mark on the players, the school, and the community. No fewer than 16 of his former players have gone on to coach high school basketball, and 5 currently coach collegiate basketball.

On December 28, 2007, Coach Molitor earned his 500th career victory. When honored with the game ball at a postgame ceremony, Molitor admitted that he hadn't been aware he was approaching this impressive milestone until he read about the achievement in the newspaper.

Throughout his remarkable coaching career, Ed Molitor emphasized achievement off the court as much as on it. In his own words, "you have to convince a kid he's got potential, not only in athletics, but in other walks of life."

Coach Molitor emphasizes the mental elements of the game over the physical, and this approach has brought him and his players success on the court and in life. He has led teams to six conference championships, seven regional titles, and two sectional championships.

I am happy to report that his peers have recognized Ed Molitor's skills. On two occasions, he has been named Coach of the Year by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. In 1997, the association inducted Molitor into its Hall of Fame. Over the years, Coach Molitor has been selected to coach a number of regional, state, and national teams. He also sits on the All-State Selection Board.

Ed Molitor has been a tremendous asset to Illinois high school basketball throughout his coaching career, but his greatest value has always been to his players. Today, I join the current and former members of Palatine High School's varsity basketball team in thanking Coach Molitor for his commitment to coaching and his passion for helping student-athletes develop character, discipline, and perseverance—skills that will prove valuable even after the season has ended.

Mr. President, I congratulate Coach Ed Molitor on his accomplishments throughout his long and successful coaching career, and I wish him many more years of happiness and accomplishment in retirement.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHRISTOPHER F. PFEIFER

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor PFC Christopher F. Pfeifer of Spalding, Nebraska.

Private First Class Pfeifer grew up in Spalding and, during high school, played football, as well as the drums in the school band. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, and especially music and playing his drums. His music teacher said he was one of the better drum players she had ever seen. After joining the Job Corps, he earned his high school diploma, and met his future wife, Karen. They married on March 22, 2006, and 1 month later, he joined the U.S. Army, partly influenced by his brother's service as a Green Beret. His father said he loved the Army and, after completing his military commitment, wanted to use the G.I. bill to go to college.

Private First Class Pfeifer was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, assigned to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, in Schweinfurt, Germany. On August 17, 2007, his unit came under enemy fire near Kamu, Afghanistan. Private First Class Pfeifer sustained wounds while bravely trying to pull fellow soldiers to safety. He passed away on September 25, 2007, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX. Private First Class Pfeifer was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Private First Class Pfeifer is survived by his wife Karen and their newborn daughter Peyton; his parents Michael and Darlina Pfeifer of Spalding, NE; his brother, Aaron of Fort Bragg, NC; and his sister Nichole, of Hauppauge, NY. I offer my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Private First Class Pfeifer. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our Nation, and his daughter will grow up knowing her father is a hero. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Private First Class Pfeifer's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING B. LYN BEHRENS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Lyn Behrens as she retires as president and CEO of Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, drawing to a close a successful career in medicine and civic leadership.

After completing her degree in medicine from the Sydney University School of Medicine in Australia in 1964, Dr. Behrens became the first and only pediatric resident at Loma Linda University Medical Center in 1966. By 1986, Dr. Behrens was the first female Dean

of the School of Medicine, and by 1990 she had become the first female President of Loma Linda University. Five years later she assumed the position of CEO of Adventist Health System, which soon became the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Science Center. In 1999, Dr. Behrens was chosen to serve as President of Loma Linda University Medical Center. Loma Linda University and Medical Center has prospered under her leadership, and has become a preeminent institution for patient care and medical technology. I have had the pleasure of visiting Loma Linda University and have found Dr. Behrens to be an exemplary model to her colleagues, capable of bringing out the best in her associates.

During Behrens' tenure, Loma Linda University witnessed the development of a dedicated children's hospital with the most advanced equipment and methodology. The university has also witnessed the development of a center for behavioral medicine, as well as a rehabilitation, orthopaedic and neurosciences institute. The university has also added new schools of pharmacy and science and technology, and has worked diligently to foster its interaction with local research institutes to develop innovation in the use of global information systems to assist with emergency medical response. The first hospital-based center for proton therapy and research has also been developed under Behrens' tenure, and has become a leading institution in the treatment of cancer. The university has taken great strides to improve care and support for our Nation's veterans at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center.

Dr. Behrens has also been a dynamic leader in her community, working to ensure positive community service to her area and throughout the world. She has been instrumental in bringing to fruition a great number of social and community services organizations and programs. Programs such as the Social Action Community Health Services Clinic, PossAbilities, Community Kids Connection and Operation Jessica, have brought medical and social support to a broad group of individuals. These organizations have assisted special needs and at-risk children and teens, and developed after-school programs and ESL—English Second Language—programs. Dr. Behrens' leadership has also provided for increased medical and community support internationally, providing support in 12 nations, including the only teaching hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, and the most advanced hospital in mainland China.

As she retires from more than four decades of service and leadership in medicine to the communities of California and beyond, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to recognize her for a career of visionary leadership. The future of medical education, research, and service will be forever changed thanks to her bold leadership. •